

of our respective parties in the Senate, we sometimes disagree and sometimes even clash publicly—it has been rare—we have a very good working relationship. When the day is done and we have conversations, they are quite often personal and very kind. I appreciate his courtesies. I look forward to working with him in the next Congress.

It is going to surely test us in every way, every day, but I hope and pray we will be up to the task. I will certainly try to fulfill that new, challenging role. And I know I can count on my friend and partner to do his part on the other side of the aisle.

So I am delighted to be able to offer this resolution of commendation to Senator DASCHLE.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

COMMENDING THE EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I have a resolution at the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 391) to commend the exemplary leadership of the Majority Leader.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, this resolution is offered in the most heartfelt and sincere way. These last 2 years have been very difficult. There have been times when it has tested all of us. But no one has been more tested than the majority leader. No one has been called upon to lead in more arduous circumstances, on more occasions, than the majority leader. And as he has just noted, there have been times when we have had our differences. But I have always admired him for his remarkable ability to put aside those differences, to come to my office, to invite me to his, to talk in the most affable and personal way when the day is done. I admire that and many other of his remarkable talents. We are fortunate to have his leadership. We are fortunate to have his service to this country. And I am fortunate to have his friendship.

So I congratulate him on his successful tenure as majority leader. And as he noted, our times in the future will become even more arduous, even more tested. I look forward to taking on those challenges with the same degree of enthusiasm, the same degree of willingness, to work in a partnership that I hope we can continually demonstrate. So I thank him. I wish him well and look forward to our service together in the next 2 years.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the American public, the people from South Dakota, the people from Mississippi, do not know how hard these two men

work for their States and their country. They probably have some idea because they are both so popular in their respective States, but from someone who sits and watches these two men every day we are in session—and many of the days we are not in session—I am in awe as to the work they do and the difficult situations they get us out of.

If someone had said this morning at 10 o'clock that we would be in the position we are in today—being able to go home for Christmas—I would have laughed at them. I thought it was impossible for us to do that. But these two men, working together, were able to put together a package of about \$500 billion involving the most important things this country deals with on a daily basis. They did this. They did it alone. There were others on the outside helping a little bit, but this is just an example.

But I have been able, from my perspective here for 2 years, to watch them, and I am tremendously impressed. I want this RECORD spread with the fact that these resolutions do not in any way connote the really good work they do. On paper it says they did a good job, but it takes someone who works with these two gentlemen on a daily basis to see the sacrifices they make for their States and for the country.

Their families should be so proud of what they do. The people of their States should be so proud of what they do. And I, speaking on behalf of Americans, after this bitter election, say here are examples of everything that is good about the American political system—Senators DASCHLE and LOTT.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the resolution?

Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 391) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 391

Resolved, That the thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to the distinguished Majority Leader, the Senator from Mississippi, the Honorable Trent Lott, for his exemplary leadership and the cooperative and dedicated manner in which he has performed his leadership responsibilities in the conduct of Senate business during the second session of the 106th Congress.

Mr. LOTT. I appreciate very much the kind remarks of Senator DASCHLE and also our good friend, Senator REID of Nevada. He has been very generous, and we appreciate it. He makes our jobs easier. Sometimes when we are out there having meetings or taking incoming shots from various places, in a quiet, humble, self-effacing, diligent way, HARRY REID is out there finding a solution. I sincerely appreciate the work he has given us and the entire institution over the last year. I enjoy working with him very much.

I am very proud, too, while we have big States, very important States, the little States of Nevada, Mississippi, and South Dakota are hanging in there. We are glad to be able to fill these positions of responsibility.

So I thank them both very sincerely.

THANKING SENATE STAFF

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send another resolution to the desk on behalf of myself and Senator DASCHLE and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 392) tendering the thanks of the Senate to the Senate Staff for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which they have assisted the deliberations of the Senate.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 392) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 392

Resolved, That the thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to the Secretary of the Senate, the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, the Secretary for the Majority, the Secretary for the Minority, and the floor staff of the two parties for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which they have assisted the deliberations of the Senate during the second session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to just expound a bit on this resolution. We are deeply indebted to these staff members, including those at the table in front of us. They are so efficient. They are so informed. They save us many times from ourselves. They are here early. They are here late. And, of course, all of the clerks, the Parliamentarians, and the representatives who are here do a magnificent job. We do not always say we appreciate it enough, but we do. We could not make it without them.

This resolution is the very least we could do to say we appreciate them.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, again, I want to identify myself with the remarks of the majority leader. These staff are the best there could be. I thank them, on behalf of the entire Senate, for their hard work, for their professionalism, for the level of commitment they make each and every time they come to work. I thank them for what they do. There are so many ways we ought to stop throughout the year and express ourselves in as heartfelt a way as we can, but at least now at the end of this Congress, we ought to say—with an exclamation point—thank you.

Thank you for what you do. Thank you for who you are. Thank you for what you give each and every day.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be added as a cosponsor to each of these resolutions that have just been offered: S. Res. 388, S. Res. 389, S. Res. 390, S. Res. 391, and S. Res. 392.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Nevada will be added as a cosponsor to the resolutions.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, those are all of the resolutions we have at this time.

I know the distinguished Senator from Alaska, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, will probably have some remarks about the bill we have been working on for so long now. We have a few other items.

CONGRATULATING SENATOR STEVENS AND SENATOR BYRD

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, let me take this occasion to thank the distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee and, in his absence, Senator BYRD for his cooperation with Senator STEVENS. They work together as a team every day. They do an incredible job. They have one of the toughest jobs in the Congress.

I have been working in budget processes now directly for I guess about 20 years. When I was in the House as the whip, I sometimes reluctantly became a participant in those budget renegotiations. They were never easy. But I don't think I have ever seen more fire, lightning, and thunder than we had on this bill, when you compare it to bills of the past that were relatively small in size and various parts.

It was very tough. Everything was fought over so aggressively. Things didn't get in, such as Amtrak, and things got in, such as Medicare adjustments. But we found a way to make it happen. We found it very hard to let go. But the Senator from Alaska hung in there. I know he was working at 2

o'clock this morning, and I know he was back at the office today at 6:30. I talked to him sometime between 6:30 and 8 o'clock this morning. The amazing thing was he was sweet and charming and pleasant.

Is this the deed? Is this what we have here?

Mr. MOYNIHAN. I dare not ask a World War II pilot veteran to lift this or the rules on ergonomics might be contradicted.

But I congratulate you, sir.

Mr. LOTT. It probably violates the rules of ergonomics, I would like to say, if that is the package.

Finally, all of us learned in the last 2 days more than we ever wanted to know about the Steller sea lion. What is it, and what are they? Whatever they are, I am sure they are beautiful, and I know they appreciate the effort of the Senator from Alaska. I know about 10,000 Alaskans appreciate the fact that their jobs will not be wiped out almost instantly.

The administration was very tough, but they were protecting the Endangered Species Act. I don't know quite how Senator STEVENS found common ground. But he did. Thank goodness for all of the persistence. He is affectionately known as "The Tasmanian Devil." But today he did this job without his Tasmanian necktie.

While we get very testy with each other sometimes, we still really appreciate the work that is done.

Senator STEVENS, congratulations, and I look forward to someday being able to know all that is in the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ABRAHAM). The Democratic leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, this will be the last time, because I know others want to speak.

I, too, want to congratulate the chairman and ranking member. This has been a really difficult experience. He knows it. No one knows it better than he because he had to experience it

as late as 3:30 last night and as early as 6:30 this morning. We know because of a very intense debate we had within our caucus. It would not have happened without his leadership. It would not have happened without his persistence and the work of his staff—and the staff whom both the majority leader and I have been fortunate to have serve with us as we have attempted to put this package together.

I congratulate him. I thank him. I also congratulate the people of Alaska for the kind of representation they sent to Washington in the person of TED STEVENS.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I know others are going to take the floor.

While the two leaders are here, I thank each of them for their comments. Nothing is done in the Senate without the concurrence of the leadership. I know full well the help they have given us in the past days and weeks which led to the final solution. I will be speaking about that later.

I thank the Senator from Mississippi and also my friend, the Senator from South Dakota, for their help and for the sincere comments they made today. They are very welcome, as far as I am concerned, and I am humbled by them. I thank them very much.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I appreciate the positive remarks that have just been made about our leadership and those who have supported them throughout these difficult 2 years, and look forward at an appropriate time to hearing the comments of the chairman of the Appropriations Committee on this legislation.

NOTICE

Incomplete record of Senate proceedings. Today's Senate proceedings will be continued in the next issue of the Record.